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U.N. Association Honors Filner

The San Diego chapter of the United Nations Association recently honored Congressman Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, with its Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award. Roosevelt was influential in helping the group obtain a lease for the building that it has occupied in Balboa Park for the last 41 years, according to Karen Longstreth, president of the association. The group has been handing out the annual award for just four years.

"We have chosen someone whose work reflects some of the same values and vision that Eleanor Roosevelt had," Longstreth said. "We felt Congressman Filner has been a champion of human rights and the underdog from his youth. ... His voting record in the House has been very strong — very solid. He's been really good to the United Nations, which is an organization, in itself, that stands for the promotion of human rights."

As an 18-year-old college student, Filner joined the Freedom Rides in the South. He also was jailed for several months in Mississippi in connection with his efforts to promote civil rights.